AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 93, 95 and 96 as follows:

Claims 1-92 (canceled)

Claim 93 (currently amended): An automatically-activated laser scanning 2D 2-D bar code symbol reading system for use in a work environment reading 2-D bar code symbols, said system comprising:

a hand-supportable 2D 2-D bar code symbol reader in communication with a host system, and having a bar code reading mode of operation and, a data transmission mode of operation and a working distance, and including

(1) a hand-supportable housing;

(2) an objection detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for (i) automatically detecting the presence of an object within an object detection field external to said hand-supportable housing and spatially encompassing a substantial portion of said visible linear-type laser scanning pattern along the working distance of said system, and (ii) automatically generating an activation control signal in response to the detection of the object detection within said object detection field;

(2) an automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism, disposed in said hand-supportable housing and activated in response to the generation of said control activation signal, for automatically (1) producing, during said bar code reading mode of operation, a visible linear-type laser scanning pattern for scanning a 2D 2-D bar code symbol structure on an object as said hand-supportable housing is manually transported past said 2D 2-D bar code symbol along a height-wise direction by an operator, (2) capturing lines of scan data from said scanned 2D bar code symbol structure, (3) decode processing said scan data, and (4) generating a symbol character data string representative of said read 2-D bar code symbol;

wherein said laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism includes

(a) a bar code symbol data detector for automatically detecting each line of said 2-D bar code symbol during said bar code reading mode of operation, and automatically producing a line of scan data for buffering in a buffer memory, and

(b) an audible data capture buffering indicator for automatically generating audible sounds as each line of bar code symbol data is captured and buffered in said buffer memory, and

(c) a decode processor for automatically decode automatically processing an entire set of scan data collected in said buffer memory and corresponding to a scanned 2-D bar code symbol, and generating a symbol character data string representative of said read 2-D bar code symbol;

(3) a data transmission circuit, disposed in said hand-supportable housing, for transmitting said produced symbol character data string to a host system; and

(4) a device controller, disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for controlling said automatically-activated laser scanning 2-D bar code symbol reading mechanism and said data transmission circuit.

Claim 94 (previously presented): The automatically-activated laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, which further comprises a good read indicator, integrated with said hand-supportable housing, for indicating each instance of when a bar code symbol is read by said laser-scanning bar code symbol reading mechanism and a symbol character data string representative thereof is produced.

Claim 95 (currently amended): The automatically-activated laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, which further comprises an objection said object detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing and including comprises an infrared (IR) signal transmission/receiving circuitry for automatically detecting said object within an said object detection field definable relative to said hand-supportable housing.

Claim 96 (currently amended): The automatically-activated laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, which further comprises an objection said object detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing, and including low-power non-visible laser beam signaling mechanism for automatically detecting said object within an said object detection field definable relative to said hand-supportable housing.